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Culhane

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(54) **GARMENTS WITH STRETCH FABRICS**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **2/227**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 2/22-24,
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2/16

See application file for complete search history.

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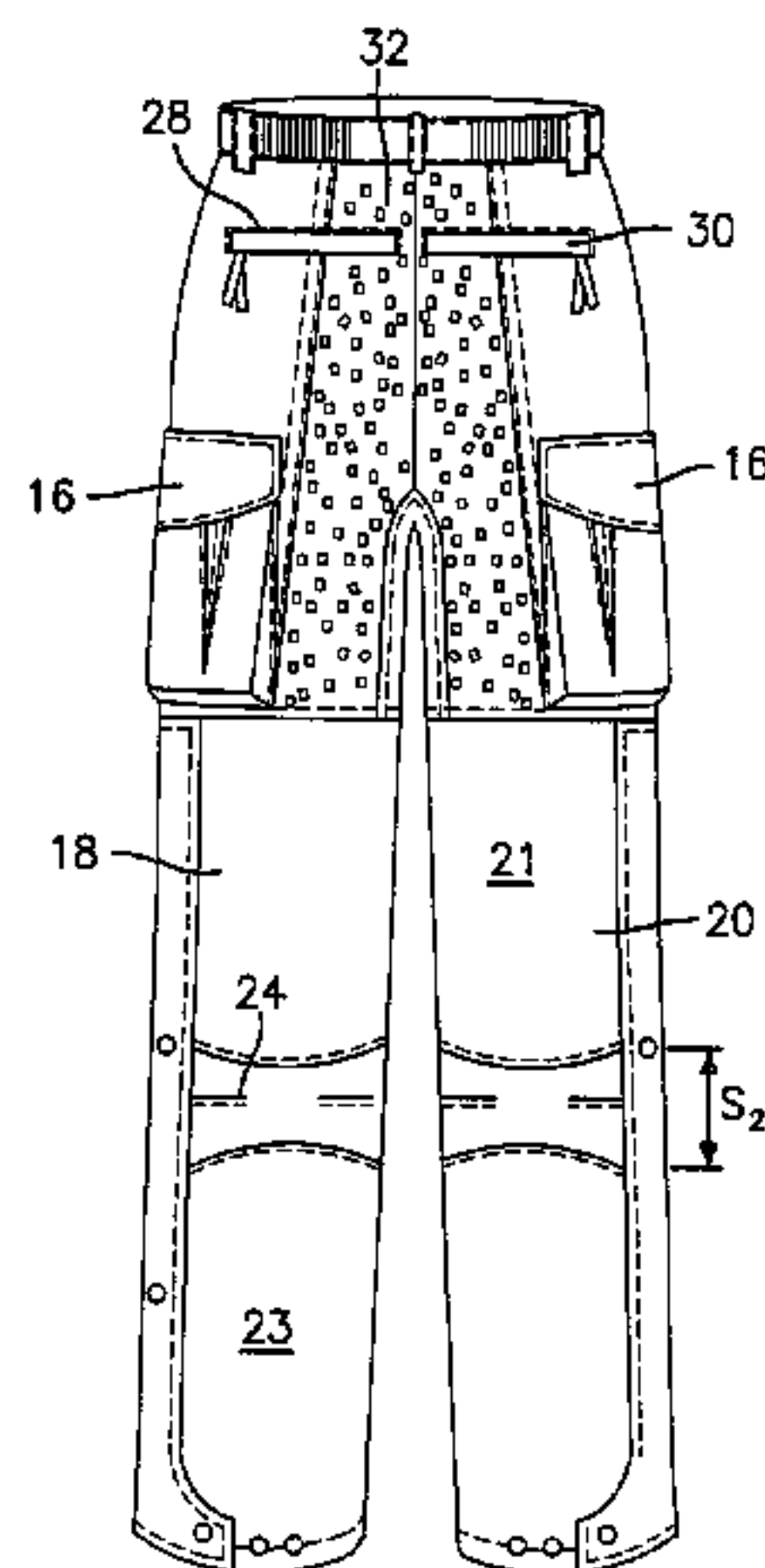
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to various types of garments to be worn by outdoors people such as hunters and fishermen. The garments include stretch fabric portions in strategic locations to provide mobility as well as comfort and thereby allow the wearer to engage in a wide range of activities. The garments having such stretch fabric portions include pants-type garments, bib overall type garments, and coat-type garments and coverall-type garments.

8 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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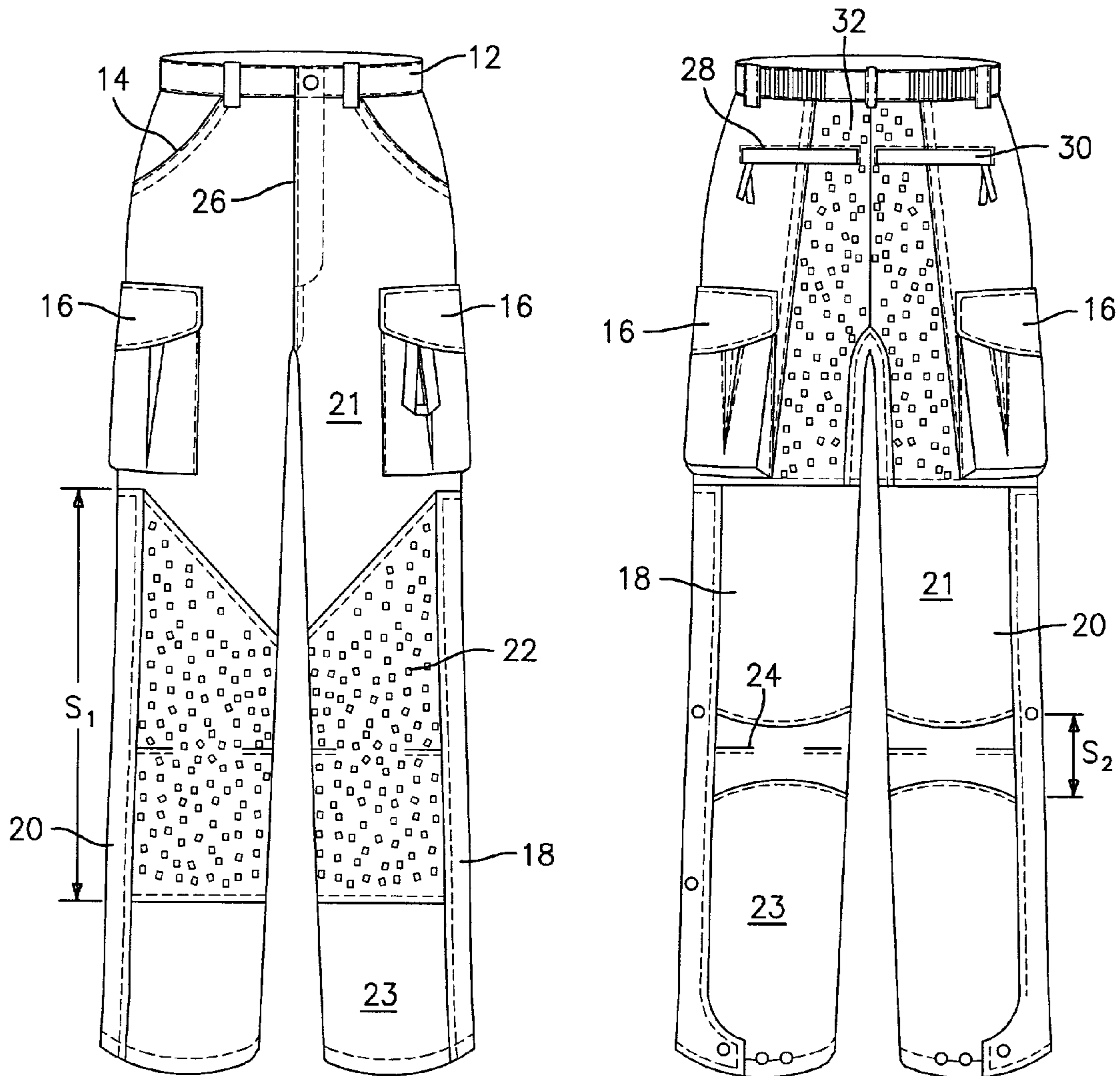


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

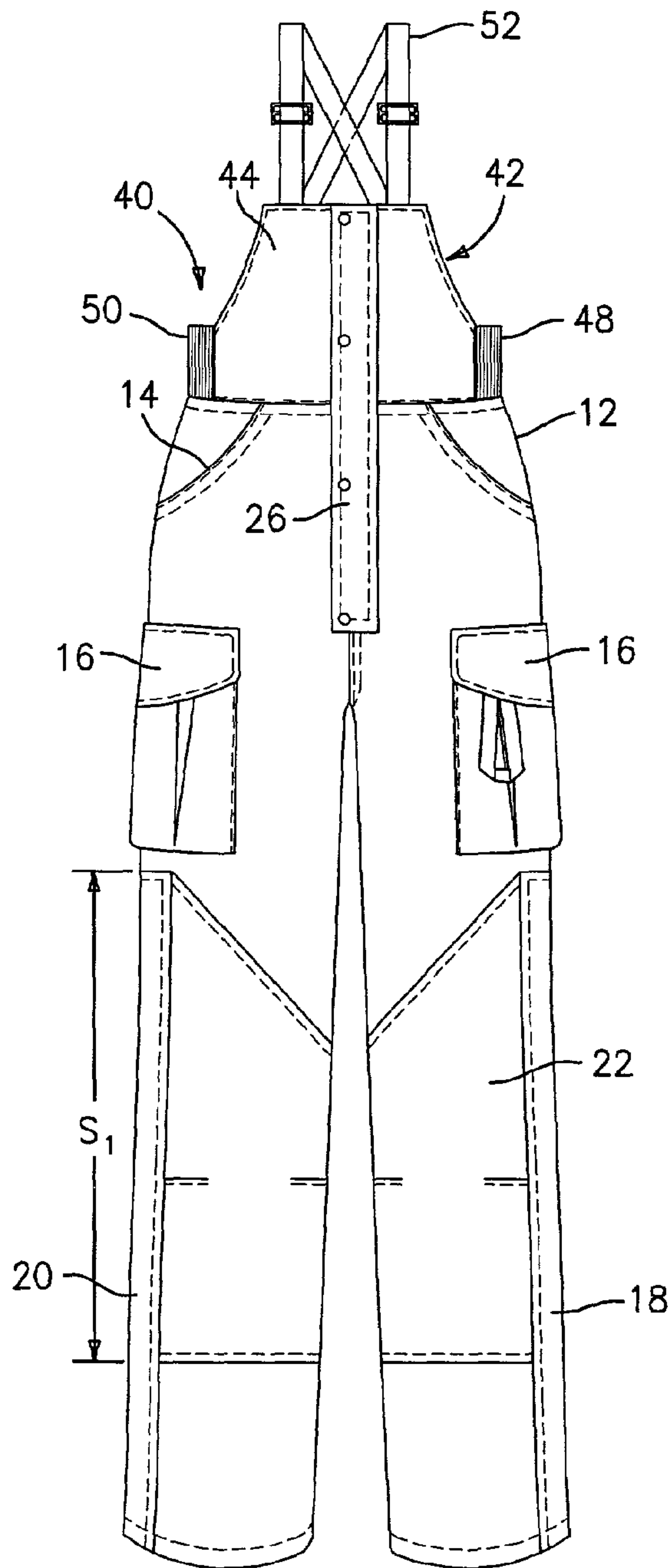


FIG. 3

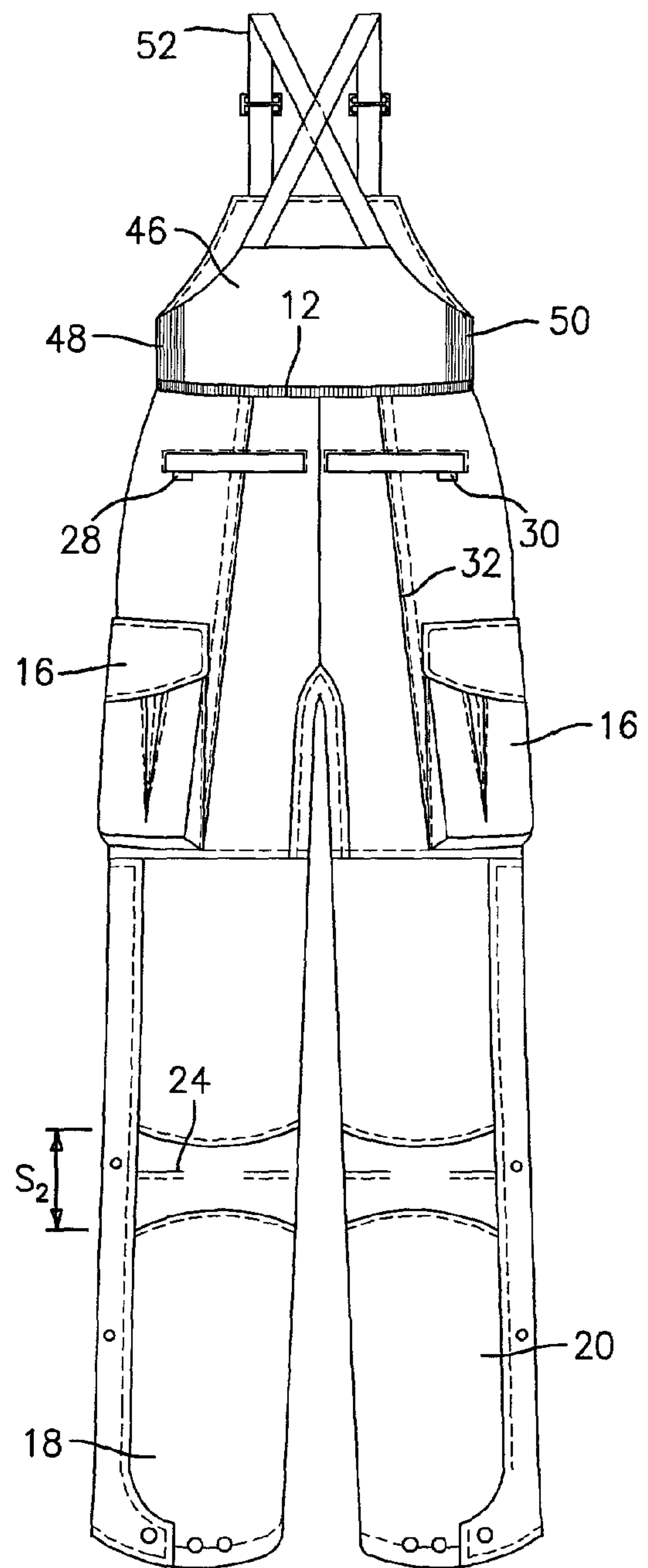


FIG. 4

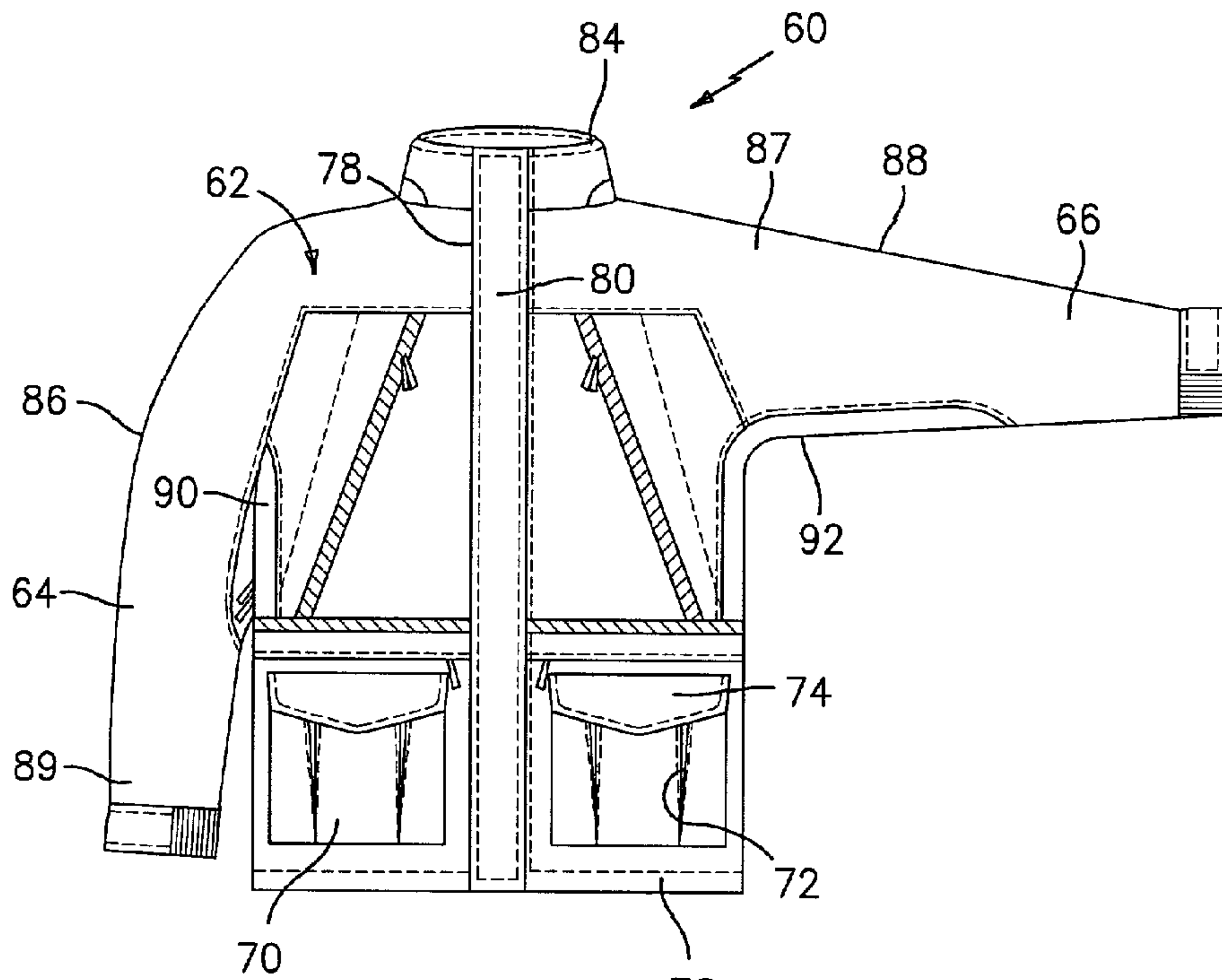


FIG. 5

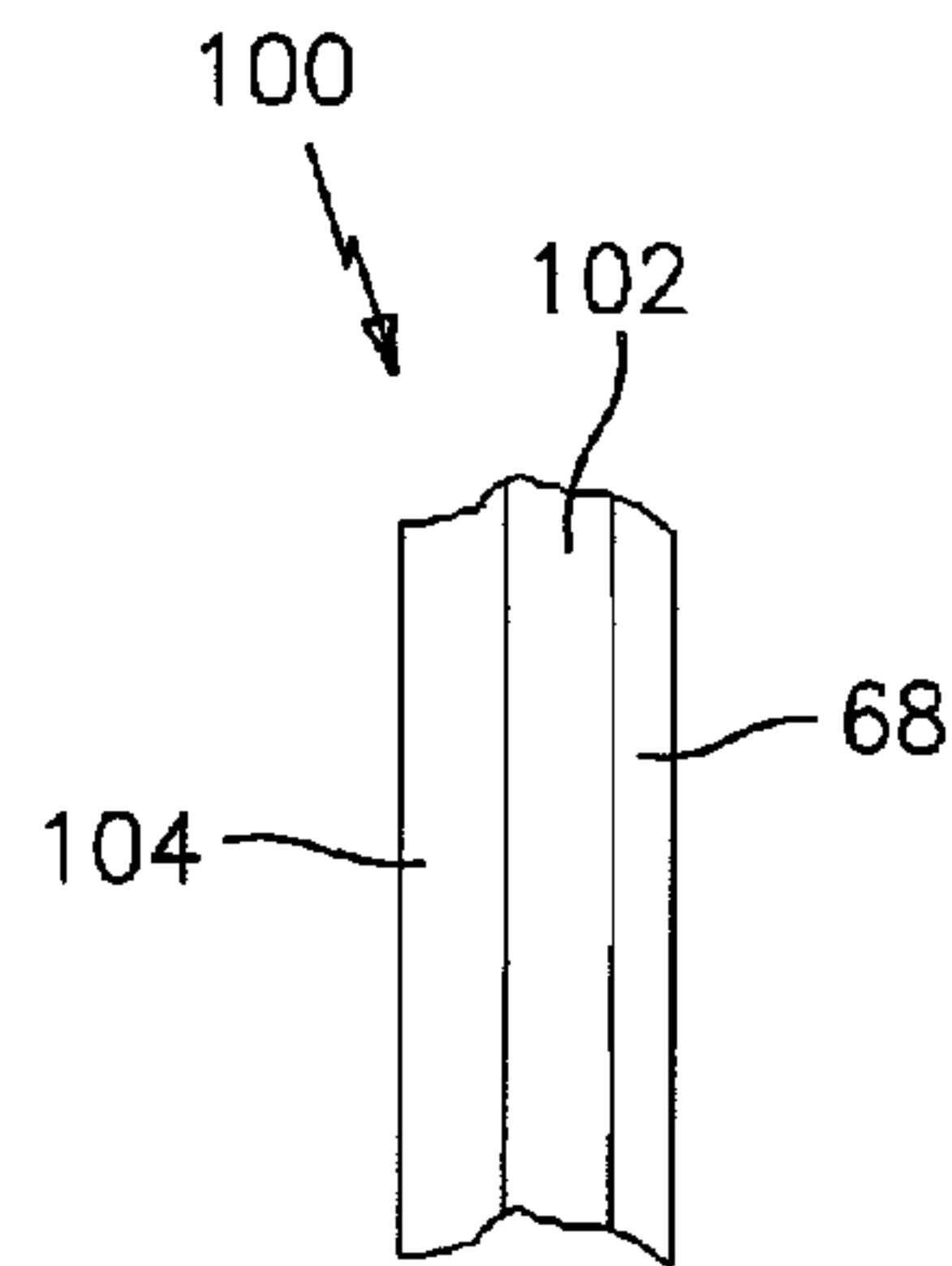


FIG. 7

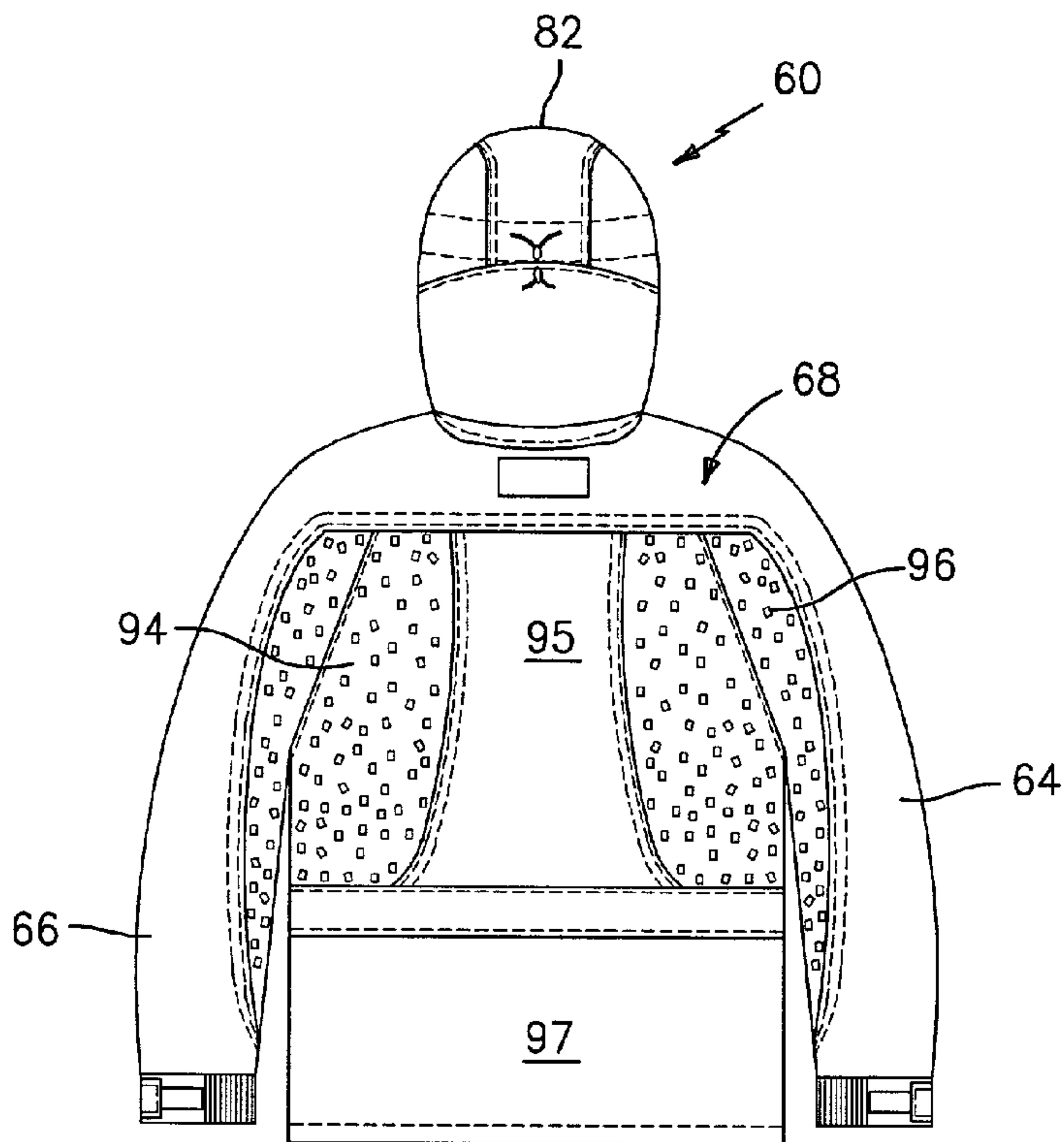


FIG. 6

1**GARMENTS WITH STRETCH FABRICS****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/280,878, filed Apr. 2, 2001, entitled GARMENTS WITH STRETCH FABRICS.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to garments to be worn by outdoors people, such as hunters and fishermen, which provide comfort and most importantly mobility. The garments include portions formed from stretch fabrics.

Outdoorsmen, such as hunters and fishermen, frequently find themselves in situations which require extreme mobility. For example, an outdoorsmen may find it necessary to climb a tree. A hunter may find himself or herself in a position where they need mobility in their clothing to allow them to swing a rifle or pull a bow string. Fishermen may find themselves in a position where they need mobility to cast a fishing line. Clothes worn by hunters and fishermen today lack the required mobility.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide garments which have a high degree of mobility in areas where mobility is needed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide garments which are comfortable to wear.

It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide garments of a type which can be worn by both men and women.

The foregoing objects are attained by the garments of the present invention.

In accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, a garment is provided which comprises first and second leg portions with each of the leg portions having an articulated knee portion and a hinged knee portion. Both the articulated knee portion and the hinged knee portion are formed from a stretch material, wherein the stretch material forming the articulated knee portion has a longer span than the stretch material forming the hinged knee portion. The garment further has a seat portion formed from a stretch material. The garment may comprise pants or a bib overall.

In a second embodiment of the present invention, a garment is provided which has a body portion and two arm portions extending from the body portion with each arm portion having an elbow portion formed from a stretch material. The body portion has a rear portion which is also formed from a stretch fabric material. Still further, the garment includes under arm portions formed from a stretch fabric material.

Other details of the garments of the present invention, as well as other objects and advantages attendant thereto, are set forth in the following description and the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals depict like elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING(S)

FIG. 1 is a front view of a pants garment formed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the pants garment of FIG. 1;

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FIG. 3 is a front view of a bib overall garment formed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a rear view of the bib overall garment of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a front view of a coat formed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a rear view of the coat of FIG. 5; and

FIG. 7 is a sectional view if a portion of the coat of FIG. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Referring now to the drawings, FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a pants garment **10** formed in accordance with the present invention. The pants garment **10** includes a waist portion **12**, front pockets **14** and **16**, rear pockets **28** and **30**, and legs **18** and **20** having an articulated knee portion **22** and a hinge knee portion **24**. The pants garment **10** also includes an opening **26** in the front of the garment **10**. The opening **26** may be closed by any suitable means known in the art, such as a zipper, snaps, buttons, and/or VELCRO pieces. Still further, the pants garment **10** includes a seat portion **32**. The waist portion **12** may contain an elastic material and a snap- or hook-type closure for allowing a tight fit around a user's waist.

As previously discussed, outdoorsmen often find themselves in situations where it is necessary to climb trees or fences or otherwise jump over or hurdle terrain features. In order to allow the user freedom to accomplish these tasks and others, the pants garment **10** must provide mobility as well as comfort. To this end, the articulated knee portion **22** and/or the hinged knee portion **24** are formed from a stretch fabric material. As can be seen from FIGS. 1 and 2, when both the articulated knee portion **22** and the hinged knee portion **24** are both formed from a stretch fabric material, it is preferred that the stretch fabric material forming the articulated knee portion **22** has a larger span S_1 than the stretch fabric material forming the hinged knee portion **24**. This is to allow a greater range of stretching in the front where it is needed. In the rear of the garment **10**, the knee portion **24** primarily acts as a hinge and thus, a smaller span S_2 of stretch fabric material is needed for this portion. Remaining portions of the legs, such as upper leg portions **21** and lower leg portions **23**, are preferably formed from a non-stretch or stable fabric material.

In addition to the knee portions **22** and **24** being formed from a stretch fabric material, the seat portion **32** of the pants garment **10** is formed from a stretch fabric material. This provides added mobility during bending.

The stretch fabric material used to form the knee portions **22** and **24** and the seat portion **32** may be any suitable stretch fabric material known in the art, such as a SPANDEX fabric material.

Referring now to FIGS. 3 and 4, a bib overall type garment **40** is illustrated. The garment **40** is similar in construction to the pants garment **10** and includes a waist portion **12**, front pockets **14** and **16**, legs **18** and **20**, articulated knee portion **22**, hinged knee portion **24**, a front opening **26**, rear pockets **28** and **30**, and seat portion **32**. As before, the waist portion **12** is preferably elasticized and the front opening **26** has a closure such as a zipper, snaps, VELCRO pieces and/or buttons.

The bib garment **40** also has knee portions **22** and **24** and a seat portion **32** formed from a stretch fabric material and remaining portions, such as upper leg portions **21** and lower leg portions **23**, formed from non-stretch or stable fabrics. In addition, the garment **40** has a bib portion **42** with front and rear panels **44** and **46** respectively. The front and rear panels **44** and **46** are joined together by side panels **48** and **50** and by straps **52**. The side panels **48** and **50** may be joined to the front and rear panels **44** and **46** using any suitable means known in

the art. If desired, the straps **52** may include buckle-type release devices to facilitate a user's access into and out of the garment **40**. Further, the straps **52** may be variable in length and may be provided with suitable length adjustment devices.

In a preferred construction, the side panels **44** and **46** and the straps **52** are formed from a stretch fabric material. As before, the material forming the side panels **44** and **46** and the straps **52** may comprise any suitable stretch fabric material known in the art.

Referring now to FIGS. **5-7**, a coat garment **60** is illustrated. The coat garment **60** includes a front portion **62**, arms **64** and **66**, and a rear portion **68**. The coat garment **60** may include any desired number of pockets such as pockets **70** and **72**. The pockets may be open pockets or pockets which are capable of being closed by a button, a zipper, VELCRO fabric pieces, snaps, or the like. If desired, the pockets **70** and **72** may have flap portions **74**. The waist portion **76** of the garment **60** may have a drawstring or the like to allow this portion to be closely fitted to the user.

The garment **60** also has a front opening **78**. The front opening **78** may be closed using any suitable means known in the art such as a zipper, VELCRO pieces, snaps, and/or buttons. If desired, the garment **60** may be constructed so that a piece of fabric **80** overlaps the closure device.

The garment **60** may also have a hood **82** attached to it. The hood **82** may be collapsible so that it can be stored in a neck portion **84** of the garment **60**. Alternatively, the hood **82** may be detachable from the garment **60**.

To provide the garment **60** with the mobility need by a user, certain portions of the garment **60** are formed from a stretch fabric material, while other portions are formed from a non-stretch or stable fabric material. For example, elbow portions **86** and **88**, and under arm portions **90** and **92** of the garment **60** are formed from a stretch fabric material. Upper arm portions **87** and wrist portions **89** of the garment **60** may be formed from non-stretch or stable fabric material. Further, the rear portion **68** has first and second side panels **94** and **96** formed from a stretch fabric material, while a central portion **95** and a lower rear portion **97** are formed from a non-stretch or stable fabric material. As before, the stretch fabric material forming the elbow portions **86** and **88**, underarm portions **90** and **92**, and side portions **94** and **96** may comprise any suitable stretch fabric material known in the art. By providing a stretch fabric material in these portions, a user is free to engage in a wide range of activities requiring freedom of movement such as drawing a bow string or swinging a rifle or a shotgun to a desired position.

If desired, the entire rear portion **68** of the garment **60** may be formed from a stretch fabric.

If desired, the garment **60** may include a liner **100**. The liner **100** may be a removable liner or a permanently affixed liner. Preferably, when present, the liner **100** is formed from a stretch fabric material such as a breathable, waterproof stretch fabric material **102**. If desired, the stretch fabric material **102** could be part of a laminated construction where a stretch film material **104** is applied to one side of the stretch fabric material. Ideally, the stretch fabric material **102** would be a four way stretch fabric material.

While the garment **60** has been illustrated as being a jacket type of garment, it could also be a parka type of garment if desired.

It should be recognized that the garments described herein may be adapted and/or sized to fit men, women, and children.

Further, the stretch fabric material locations set forth hereinbefore in connection with the pants and the coat garments could be used in the construction of a single piece coverall type of garment which covers both the upper and lower portions of a human torso.

If desired, both the stretch fabric materials and the non-stretch or stable fabric materials used in the garments of the present invention may be coated or laminated with a coating or film that make them waterproof.

It is apparent that there has been provided in accordance with the present invention garments made with stretch fabrics which fully satisfy the objects, means, and advantages set forth hereinbefore. While the invention has been described in the context of specific embodiments thereof, alternatives, modifications, and variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art having read the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace those alternatives, modifications, and variations as fall within the broad scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A garment to be worn by a human being comprising: a waist portion and a pair of legs extending downwardly from said waist portion; each of said legs having an articulated knee portion and a hinged knee portion; both the articulated knee portion and the hinged knee portion being formed from a stretch fabric material; said stretch fabric material forming the articulated knee portion having a span greater than a span of the stretch fabric material forming the hinged knee portion; other portions of said legs being formed by a non-stretch fabric material; and a seat portion formed from a stretch fabric material.
2. A garment according to claim 1, further comprising at least one pocket, a front opening, and closure means for said front opening.
3. A garment according to claim 1, wherein said garment is a pair of pants.
4. A garment according to claim 1, wherein said garment comprises a bib overall type garment and has a front panel and a rear panel joined together by two side panels.
5. A garment according to claim 4, wherein each of said side panels is formed from a stretch fabric material.
6. A garment according to claim 5, further comprising a pair of straps connected to said rear and front panels.
7. A garment according to claim 1, wherein said waist portion contains an elastic material and a closure for allowing a tight fit around a user's waist.
8. A garment according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of pockets attached to a front portion of said garment and said articulated knee portions extending from a region immediately below said pockets to a portion below a user's knees.

* * * * *